

16 Charles St
NYC 10014

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Thank you for your letter and for sending off the books -- but I couldn't wait, and borrowed Jerry Agel's copy. I can't tell you how it impresses me: I'm not finished yet, but haven't been able to stop reading. As you know I'm sort of familiar with the material, but your presentation excites me, without at the same time ever being less than responsible and considered. The use of language impresses me most: you've no need to apologize for its first-draftness, because there doesn't seem to me to be anything to edit.

It makes me feel more remorse than ever that I was never able to be of any help to you. I thought you were rather paranoid, but that was clearly off the beam because it refers to imaginary persecution and yours has certainly been tangible enough. (I'd like to suggest though that even now when talking or writing to possible distributors or reviewers that you eliminate that ^{whole story} ~~until~~ you have them on your side: ~~the story~~ is so unbelievable that hearing it straight out may make them doubt your sanity instead of their own and the country's. I'm sorry for making such a forward suggestion but really think it counts.)

Before I'd got your letter but after beginning the book, I bumped into someone from Grove Press named Richard Seaver, who is second to the boss, and praised it to him, and tried to interest him in its distribution. He took down your address and said he'd write for a copy; if he hasn't maybe you can send him one anyway at Grove, 80 University Place, NYC. They're the ones who originally commissioned Lane's book then wouldn't even read it because he didn't meet the deadline; but who knows, they may redeem themselves.

I have a friend on the NYTimes Book Review named Christopher Lehmann-Haupt whom I called to see whether, if they plan to review the Epstein/Viking book when it comes out late this month, ~~whether~~ they couldn't include yours. He wouldn't commit himself (he never does) but said he'd like to see the book and at least sounded this side of sympathetic. I don't think he has any decisive power there but possibly some influence.

I'm also friendly with the editor of Book Week (Herald Trib etc), Theodore Solotaroff, so called him too. He said he'd seen your book but didn't know what had happened to it and would like to have another copy. He sounded discouraging about reviewing it with Epstein but said he'd try to get it in later with the Lane book -- unfortunately not till Sept. Suggest you rush him a personal copy anyhow, just with a note saying I suggested it.

One last thing which is small but worthwhile: the Eighth St. Bookshop, 32 W 8th St, NY 10014, is ~~xx~~ about the best bookstore I know of -- in the sense that they really appreciate ideas, nonconforming or not, have a very wide public, and everyone involved treats books like words and not like merchandise. The boss there is Ted Wilentz. Think it might be worth it to send him a copy and see if you can get them on your side. I'm working on this separately: a friend who works above the store said he'd read my Agel copy over the weekend and try to get Wilentz interested.

Also have you sent a review copy to the Village Voice? (Sheridan Square, NY 10014). Their readers are the best sort.

The \$20 enclosed is for the first 2 copies and for 2 more, 1 for my father, Cedric Belfrage, Apdo. 630, Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico -- please enclose a note saying I said he should try to review it for the Nat. Guardian. And another to Charles Small, Mariscal 98, Mexico 20, D.F., Mexico, also with a note saying I wanted him to see it. Both ^{packages} should be hugely clearly marked BOOKS and LIBROS because Mexican customs are dreadful and hold things up otherwise. Small is an American expatriate who, when he likes a book, buys lots of copies for all his friends -- he did this with my book on Miss. and in other cases I know about, and he does it simply because he believes in a thing. I think he might believe in you, and it might mean 50 - 100 copies to good people all over the U.S. who read what he sends them.

That's all I can think of at the moment except that I'm going to drive everybody crazy talking about it, and hope something even small may come of it.

With enormous respect --

Sally

Sally Belfrage
(now Mrs. Pomerance by the way)

EAST SIDE OTHER.

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